

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W
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R 081120Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6139

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4204

EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SN, US
SUBJECT: MAC FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE

REFS: (A) STATE 214795; (B) SINGAPORE 4065; (C) SINGAPORE 2963

1. JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATION AMBASSADOR
HOLDRIDGE NOTED TWO MESSAGES ORIGINATING FROM MILITARY COMMANDS NOT
REPEATED TO THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDING THAT MAC SUPPORT FLIGHTS
TO DIEGO GARCIA BEGIN TRANSITING SINGAPORE SEPTEMBER 15, 22 AND 29
AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE FIRST THREE WEDNESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH
WITH A RETURN TRIP VIA SINGAPORE EACH THURSDAY.

2. REF B INDICATED EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO CLEAR THREE MAC
FLIGHTS A MONTH WITH GOS, BUT EMBASSY HAD ASSUMED THIS POSITION
HAD COME DOWN A CHAIN OF COMMAND AFTER BEING CLEARED WITH DEPARTMENT.

SINCE REF A INDICATES MATTER STILL UNDER DISCUSSION IN
WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDS THAT SUPPLY FLIGHTS BE
INITIATED ON A LESS FREQUENT BASIS THAN THREE PER MONTH.

3. IN HIS VIEW THE REGULAR SCHEDULING OF THREE FLIGHTS
A MONTH EXCEEDS WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER AGREED TO. AS INDICATED
REF C THE PRIME MINISTER ONLY AGREED TO MAC FLIGHTS ON AN
INTERMITTENT BASIS. WE BELIEVE PRIME MINISTER'S REFERENCE TO
INTERMITTENT SUPPLY FLIGHTS MEANT ONLY OCCASSIONAL FLIGHTS ON
AN AD HOC BASIS. ALTHOUGH WE HVE NO DIFFICULTY IN INITIATING THE
FIRST MAC SUPPLY FLIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 15, THE PROPOSED SCHEDULING

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OF THREE PER MONTH IS HARDLY CONSISTENT WITH THE CONCEPT OF

INTERMITTENT FLIGHTS.

4. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE THE AMBASSADOR WOULD PREFER THAT FINAL DECISION
ON THIS MATTER BE DELAYED UNTIL HE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIS-
CUSS THE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT AND DOD OFFICIALS
DURING CONSULTATION.
GRANT

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